Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

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R 030935 Z APR 73 FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2818 INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG AMEMBASSY MOSCOW AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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E. O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR CH JA SUBJ: JAPAN AND PRC

SUMMARY: GOJ AMBASSADOR TO PEKING DELIVERED LETTER FROM FONMIN OHIRA TO FONMIN CHI PENG- FU INVITING LATTER VISIT JAPAN.

SECOND, AND APPARENTLY MORE SIGNIFICANT, LETTER FROM PRIMIN TANAKA TO PREMIER CHOU EN- LAI TO BE DELIVERED IN NEAR FUTURE. END SUMMARY.

- 1. CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY NIKAIDO INFORMED PRESS THAT GOJ AMB TO PRC OGAWA HAD DELIVERED PERSONAL LETTER FROM FONMIN OHIRA TO FONMIN CHI PENG- FU DURING FIRST OFFICIAL CALL UPON CHI IN PEKING APRIL 3. NIKAIDO SAID THAT IN LETTER OHIRA FORMALLY INVITED CHI TO VISIT JAPAN. ACCORDING TO NIKAIDO, CHI INDICATED HE WOULD POSITIVELY CONSIDER VISIT.
- 2. FONOFF CHINA DIVISION DEPUTY CHIEF OGURA GAVE EMBOFF APRIL 4 SOME BACKGROUND SURROUNDING LETTER. OGURA SAID THAT AS OHIRA HAD NOT COMMUNICATED WITH CHI SINCE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS IN SEPTEMBER 1972, IT WAS FELT APPROPRIATE TO USE OCCASION TO KEEP OPEN FORMIN LEVEL CONTACTS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. WHILE OHIRA LETTER WAS QTE NOT TOO POLITICAL UNQTE IN CONTENT, IT DID TOUCH BRIEFLY ON CONFIDENTIAL

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CERTAIN ASPECTS OF JAPANESE FOREIGN POLICY. OGURA SAID THAT WHILE NO SPECIFIC PURPOSE FOR VISIT BY CHI WAS SPECIFIED, LETTER DID MENTION POSSIBILITIES THAT VISIT COULD PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR FONMINS TO DISCUSS WAYS OF DEEPENING ATE CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATIONS UNQTE BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES.

- 3. WHEN EMBOFF ASKED WHAT ASPECTS OF JAPANESE FOREIGN POLICY WERE TOUCHED UPON IN LETTER, OGURA HESITATED, AND THEN SAID THAT OGAWA WOULD IN NEAR FUTURE DELIVER SECOND LETTER FROM PRIMIN TANAKA TO PREMIER CHOU. OGURA SAID THAT CONTENT OF TWO LETTERS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN COMBINATION. HOWEVER, AS HE WAS NOT AT LIBERTY TO DISCUSS THE BY NATURE QTE MORE POLITICAL UNQTE LETTER FROM TANAKA, HE FELT IT BEST TO WITHHOLD FURTHER COMMENT ON OHIRA LETTER UNTIL HE COULD DESCRIBE BOTH LETTERS TO EMBOFF IN MORE DETAIL IN NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE. OGURA EMPHASIZED THAT EXISTENCE OF TANAKA LETTER HAD NOT YET BEEN CONFIRMED TO INQUIRING HEWS REPORTERS AND ASKED THAT KNOWLEDGE OF LETTER BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL.
- 4. OGURA COULD NOT PREDICT WHEN CHI MIGHT CHOOSE TO VISIT JAPAN. SHOESMITH

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^{***} Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

^{***} Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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